

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image bearing member;

5 a charging member for charging said image bearing member, the charging member bearing electrically conductive particles that contact said image bearing member; and

10 a developer carrying member for carrying a developer provided with toner and electrically conductive particles, the developer carrying means being applied a voltage to develop an electrostatic image formed on said image bearing member with the developer and being capable of collecting a residual developer on said image bearing member, wherein  
15 said developer carrying member is provided in such a manner that said developer carrying member opposes said image bearing member via a gap of 150  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and 250  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

- 20 2. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

25 said electrically conductive particles has a particle resistance of  $10^{-1}$   $\Omega\text{cm}$  or more and  $10^{12}$   $\Omega\text{cm}$  or less and a particle diameter of 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  or more and 10  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

3. An image forming apparatus according to claim

1, wherein

said electrically conductive particles are charged to have a reverse polarity with respect to said toner on said developer carrying member.

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4. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said charging member forms a nip portion between said charging member and said image bearing member, and  
10 said electrically conductive particles are caused to intervene in said nip portion.

5. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

15 said charging member is capable of moving at a peripheral velocity different from a peripheral velocity of said image bearing member in said nip portion.

20 6. An image forming apparatus according to claim 4, wherein

a moving direction of the surface of said charging member is opposite to a moving direction of the surface of said image bearing member in said nip portion.

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7. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

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said image bearing member is provided with a surface layer of  $1 \times 10^9 \Omega\text{cm}$  or more and  $1 \times 10^{14} \Omega\text{cm}$  or less.

5           8. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

          said charging member injects a charge to charge said image bearing member without substantially generating a discharge between said charging member and  
10       said image bearing member.

          9. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

          said developer carrying member is capable of  
15       performing an operation of collecting said residual developer from said image bearing member simultaneously with performing a developing operation.

          10. An image forming apparatus according to claim 20       1, wherein

          said voltage is applied to said developer carrying member, whereby an electric field for flying a developer from said developer carrying member to said  
          image bearing member.

25           11. An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

a voltage is applied to said charging member.

12. An image forming apparatus according to claim  
1, wherein

5       said apparatus has transferring means for  
transferring a toner image from said image bearing  
member to a recording medium.

13. An image forming apparatus according to claim  
10    1, wherein

          said image bearing member, said charging member  
and said developer carrying member are provided in a  
process cartridge that is detachably mountable to the  
main member of said apparatus.

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